

# FINAL-YEAR STUDENTS TAUGHT TO MANAGE CREATIVE ART PROFESSIONALLY

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*Leopold and his artwork.*

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**KUCHING:** Students of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts (Faca) are again exhibiting creative research products and professional skills in organising the Final-Year Student Inspirational Spark (Cipta) 2016.

The yearly event by Faca is not only a requisite for students to graduate but also an avenue to showcase their artworks and wide spectrum of creative projects to the industry and public while learning to manage art exhibition and event in a real setting.

Given the theme “Breakthrough”, it refers to the students’ achievements in innovation, invention, transformation and the discovery of new variations to be interpreted in the form of artworks as well as research and development projects that will empower the industry and society.

Various forms of artwork were presented during the exhibition produced by final-year students from six programmes at Faca. Among the products featured are sculptures, paintings, ceramics, photography, music performances, drama, short films, graphic design, industrial design, textile, fashion design and animation.



*Art pieces by Faca students being exhibited*

Unimas Research and Innovation deputy vice-chancellor Prof Dr Kopli Bujang said the objective of Cipta was to exhibit the end products, creation and research projects by students, which had commercial values, creativity and innovative.

“It paves the way for students to convey their ideologies with the presentation of their creation and research to others. I believe the products we see in Cipta 2016 are a self-expression of an artist’s soul.

“Cipta is also an important platform as a communication channel to establish closer ties between the industries, students and Unimas,” he said during his speech in Unimas experimental theatre.

Students poured their passion and dedication into creating their products and work for months just to be able to exhibit it during Cipta 2016. Among them Leopold Garrett Jawan.

The Fine Arts student has incorporated his culture into his artwork, inspired by the Iban ritual instrument called *tongkat lemambang*.

“Before the arrival of Christianity, the Iban folks used to worship to deities. They will perform rituals using *tongkat lemambang*. I want to show people my culture and about this practice which has been long forgotten,” said Leopold.

He took about three months to finish his artwork. It features sturdy ceramic bells tied to a long stick which is sharpened at the end.

Many Faca students also came up with creative ways to market local products such as Sabah Amplang (Fish Crackers), dried seafood, herbal tea, skin-care products, pastries and coffee in attractive packaging. While some students showcased their skills in fashion and furniture design using textiles and batik materials.



*Dr Kopli (centre) shown some of the exhibits.*

Cinematography students took to creating a life-sized Marvel's superhero Iron Man, one of the expo's crowd-pullers. Student also took to the open area to showcase paintings and artwork.

Cipta 2016 chairman Muhammad Razis Iskandar Afrizal said the research and final-year projects should show a solid idea, research process and application as well as utilising media and latest techniques.

“Some of the artworks and research projects have the potential to be commercialised and can be used to improve the livelihood of the local community,” he said.

Students of this faculty are encouraged to organise and manage an art event in a real setting, to apply what they have learnt into a practical setting. Cipta 2016 serves as a basis of how student manage art professionally.